

INTELLIGENCE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

REPORT NO.

25X1A

SUBJECT Replacement of Rails on the Sterkrade-Salzwedel
Railroad Line

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1. The former trunk line from Stendal to the zonal boundary via Salzwedel, following the dismantling of the second track in 1945 [REDACTED] and its elimination for interzonal traffic, has lost its previous importance. Its remaining track was constructed of type 8 medium rails which were urgently required for the improvement of construction of other more important lines. Such rails are a critical item in the Soviet Zone of Germany. However, since the Stendal-Salzwedel line could not be eliminated altogether, its medium type rails were exchanged for type 6 light rails which were obtained by the dismantling of the single track Haldensleben-Letzlinger line.

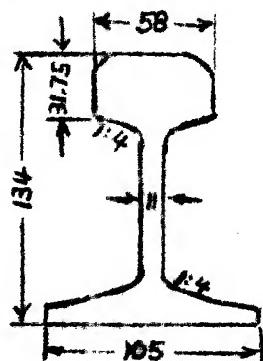
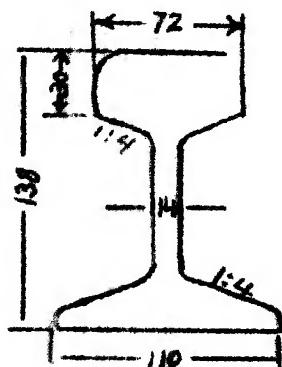
2. This replacement of rails was effected during the period from early April to late June 1951. Since that time, the Stendal-Salzwedel sector of the Berlin-Salzwedel line has only been serviceable for trains not exceeding a weight of 900 tons, as against a previous weight limit of 1,200 tons. Heavy locomotives can no longer operate on it. The remaining track of the 13km sector between Stendal and Bergen on the zonal boundary was completely dismantled. This was done during the period from 15 to 26 July 1951. A bus connection has been established between the two places; buses operate three times daily.

3. In conclusion, it may be stated that the measures taken by the Soviet Zone railroad authorities have reduced the previous strategic importance of this line which is part of the main rail route from Berlin to Bremen. In view of the very critical rail supply situation in the Soviet Zone, it is hardly probable that the previous status of this line will be restored in the foreseeable future.

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Rail Profiles on the Stendal - Salzwedel
Line Sector
(Measurements in MM)

Type 6Type 8Legend

Type 8 - medium rails previously available on the line
 Type 6 - light rails as now in use on the line

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